



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe  
Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo



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Applications for

# MPHIL IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE (MDP@UP) are now open



## WHAT'S THE DEGREE ABOUT?

Africa needs development practitioners in government, business and civil society who understand the complexity of developmental challenges and who have the leadership capacities to design and implement the integrated and multidisciplinary Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**The University of Pretoria's MPhil in Development Practice (MDP@UP) addresses this need by delivering graduates with the knowledge, leadership competence and technical skills needed to implement the SDGs.**

The one-year MDP@UP uses a hybrid learning approach, introducing participants to the most relevant development theory and practice. This includes online and face-to-face learning, leadership service learning and case study write-up and analysis. The programme is truly multidisciplinary, and focuses on the social sciences, health sciences, management sciences and natural sciences.

The MDP@UP is hosted by the **Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute** and is Africa's only programme that focuses on building leadership competence needed to implement the SDGs.

## WHY CHOOSE THE MDP@UP?



The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of **Africa's leading research-intensive universities**. Its graduates are sought after in all industries. Its Future Africa campus will strengthen UP's reputation. Future Africa is one of Africa's premier locations for interdisciplinary research to solve society's most pressing problems.



The programme focuses on **participants who are already in fulltime employment**. This enables participants to apply theory to their work environment and to build lasting networks.



The programme is affiliated with the **Global Association of Master's in Development Practice**, hosted by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network in New York City.



Pretoria is a **continental hub for development actors** in government, business and civil society.



The Albert Luthuli Leadership Institute hosts the South African SDG Hub, **Africa's first initiative that links policy makers with SDG-relevant research and innovation**. MDP@UP participants will be involved in activities co-ordinated by the SA SDG Hub.



MDP@UP participants are taught by **world class faculty from industry and academia**.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

MDP@UP seeks to attract diverse and exceptional participants.

To apply, you should be able to prove the following:

- A relevant degree with proof of exceptional undergraduate academic performance (see page 4);
- Exceptional motivation;
- Minimum of five years' work experience.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

The MDP@UP uses a **two-step** selection process.

### STEP 01

#### Online application

- **Submit an application** on [the MDP@UP website](#). Indicate that you're interested in a postgraduate degree. In order to find the degree, search for 'Development Practice'.
- After you've submitted an online application, send the **following documents** to [mdp@up.ac.za](#):
  - (1) Your motivation for applying (no more than 500 words).
  - (2) A resume (no more than 2 pages).
  - (3) Proof that you have been employed for a period of five years or more (official letter from employer).
  - (4) Your highest academic qualification (proof through academic transcripts issued by the institution).
  - (5) If your qualification was obtained outside of South Africa, you must submit a SAQA document as proof of its NQF level (this applies to both local and international applicants with qualifications from institutions outside of South Africa).
  - (6) If your degree was a four-year qualification, you will also need to provide proof of its NQF level.

### STEP 02

#### Acceptance into the programme

- Accepted students will be notified **beginning of December 2025**.
- **All students selected for the programme will need to complete an assignment to be submitted at the beginning of February, before Contact Week 1.** The assignment instructions will be shared when they are notified of the acceptance.



## KEY APPLICATION DATES AND PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

<b>1 April 2025</b>	Applications open
<b>31 August 2025</b>	Applications close for international applicants
<b>30 September 2025</b>	Applications close for South African applicants
<b>October 2025</b>	Provisionally selected candidates announced
<b>6 December 2025</b>	MDP@UP participants announced
<b>February 2026</b>	First contact session
<b>May 2026</b>	Second contact session
<b>August 2026</b>	Third contact session



## WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

### **TUITION IS ESTIMATED AT R 82 170**

You will be responsible for travel to and accommodation in Pretoria, South Africa. It should also be noted that the amounts mentioned are for both international and South African students.



## ENQUIRIES

For more information regarding the MDP please contact:

**MDP Coordinator: Ruvimbo Musiyarira**  
**Department of Business Management**  
*Economic and Management Sciences Building*

Email:

**EMS Faculty Student Advisor: Thabiso Motsei**  
**Faculty Administration**  
*Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences*

Tel: +27 12 420 4435

Email:



PLEASE SEE THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ON THE NEXT PAGE >





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S MDP DEGREE

### 1. Am I eligible for the Master's degree?

You are eligible only if you meet the following criteria:

- You have been employed fulltime for a period of five years or longer.
- You have an Honours degree or higher (Master's or PhD).
- Your qualification has an NQF level of 8 or higher.

### 2. What is the duration of the degree?

The degree takes one year to complete.

### 3. What do I need to submit?

As indicated in the MPhil Development Practice Brochure, you need to submit the following:

- Your motivation for applying (no more than 500 words).
- A resume (no more than two pages).
- Proof that you have been employed for a period of five years or more, this is in the form of an official letter from current and previous employers.
- A copy/scan of your highest qualification with the relevant academic transcript.
- SAQA accreditation document for all students with degrees not obtained at South African universities/institutions. More information is available here: [https://www.saqa.org.za/](#). Please allow approximately three months for this process to be completed with the SAQA office. It may be longer so be proactive.

### 4. What is proof of employment?

Proof of employment is an official letter from the company/ employer verifying that you are an employee.

### 5. As an international student what is required of me?

As an international student living abroad, if you are accepted into the programme you would need to be able to physically attend all three contact weeks of the course.

Students who reside outside South Africa typically apply for short-stay visas to attend the three contact weeks.

If your qualification is not from a South African university you will need to provide proof that your qualification was evaluated by SAQA.

### 6. What are the costs of the degree?

The registration and tuition fees are adjusted annually and are usually published on the University's website during December. Expect to pay between R 80 000 - R 82 000 for tuition.

- Additional information about the registration and tuition fees may be obtained on the University's web page ([https://www.wits.ac.za/](#)) or from the Student Service Centre (tel: 012 420 3111, email: [student@wits.ac.za](#)).

### 7. How many students are accepted into the programme?

Due to the popularity of the degree, the selection process is particularly competitive. As such, of the hundreds of yearly applicants, approximately twenty students will be accepted into the 2026 academic year.

### 8. What if I am unable to attend one or more of the contact weeks?

Attendance of the contact weeks is compulsory. If you know now already that you will be unable to attend one or more of the contact weeks, you should reconsider applying.

### 9. How is the degree segmented?

**There are seven subjects for the entire programme:**

- 800: Health sciences and development practice
- 801: Natural sciences and development practice
- 802: Age of sustainable development
- 803: Social sciences and development practice
- 804: Leadership theory
- 805: Leadership learning service
- 895: Case study (mini dissertation)

The Master's degree carries total of 180 credits.